

Figure 2.7

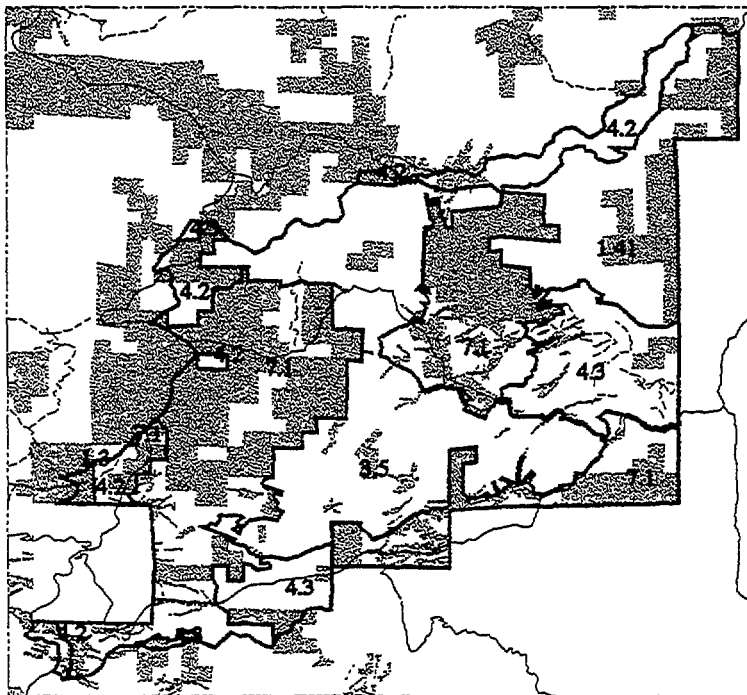
## James Creek Geographic Area

24,479 NFS Acres    14,181 Non-NFS Acres    38,660 Total Acres






### Management Area Prescription Allocation

1.41 - Core Area Habitat	
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management	
4.2 - Scenery	
4.3 - Dispersed Recreation	
7.1 - Intermix	

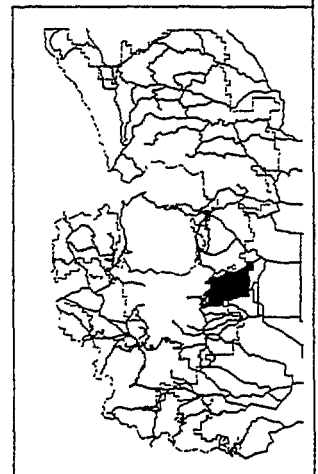
NFS Acres
3,447
9,477
2,150
3,793
5,613



### Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.00 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites

### Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000  
0 1  
Miles



## **JAMES CREEK GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

### **Setting**

The area is located between the towns of Lyons and Ward. It contains a mix of lower and upper montane plant communities consisting of aspen, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, meadows, willow carrs, and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 5,600 to 9,441 feet. Jamestown, Gold Lake, Fairview Peak, and Lefthand Canyon are the prominent geographic features.

The Deer Creek Allotment is in the geographic area and is currently open to livestock grazing. Our 1996 NEPA decision closes the allotment to future grazing after the 1997 season.

A significant portion of the land in this area (37 percent) is privately owned, and landownership patterns are highly fragmented. Many private inholdings are individual building sites with single family residences or parts of mountain subdivisions. Many year-round residents live in the area.

There is an extensive transportation system in the geographic area. Primary access is via Colorado Highways 7 and 72 and Boulder County's Lefthand Canyon and James Canyon Drives, which are all major paved routes. State Highway 72 is part of the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway. Many county and private roads provide passenger-car access to numerous subdivisions, private parcels, and the National Forests. There is an extensive network of 4WD routes and single track trails, particularly in the Lefthand Canyon OHV area. There is a limited trail network.

### **Goals and Desired Conditions**

Emphasis in the area is on a broad range of goals and desired conditions which include:

- protecting native flora and fauna
- enhancing forest health and reducing forest fuels and fire hazard through active vegetation management in cooperation with private landowners and state and county agencies
- providing both motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities
- adjusting landownership in Intermix areas in cooperation with private landowners and local jurisdictions

Restore, maintain or enhance mountain grassland and aspen communities on an opportunity basis. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a frequent, low- intensity fire regime. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Allow fire to play as natural a role as possible in the Miller Rock, Walker Mountain, and Fairview Peak portions of the geographic area. A wildland fire management strategy of prescription control will be applied to the Fairview Peak portion of the area (see the *wildland fire management strategy map*). The wildland fire management strategy for the remainder of the area is direct control or perimeter control.

Some restoration of natural processes through human-induced activities is anticipated, particularly in fire-dependent ecosystems. The kinds of treatments that could be considered include prescribed fire and mechanical treatments of vegetation through ponderosa pine thinnings and in some cases commercial timber sales. Specific goals for these treatments include improving wildlife habitats, restoring forest health, assisting in the recruitment of old- growth ponderosa pine, restoring or maintaining aspen, reducing fuel loading, and maintaining or restoring ecological integrity. In ponderosa pine communities, these activities will occur primarily on south-facing slopes. Timber harvest may be used to accomplish these goals and is probable on suitable and available lands (see the *timber suitability map*). Emphasis is also placed on the control and management of noxious weed infestations near the Todd Gulch Quaking Fen.

Manage areas along the Peak-to-Peak Scenic Byway for heavy use that consists primarily of driving for pleasure and viewing scenery. Consider the construction of a trailhead to provide safe parking facilities for the South St. Vrain Trail in the Scenic Byway corridor.

Emphasize motorized recreational opportunities along other appropriate road networks in the geographic area. Minimize human-wildlife conflicts in the winter and spring by closing the Walker Mountain and Miller Rock Roads to motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles.

Pursue rights-of-ways for the South St. Vrain Trail and the Walker Mountain, Headache, Miller Rock, Gillespie Gulch, and Golden Age Roads.

Manage the area for year-round recreational use. Minimize recreational impacts to riparian areas by managing the South St. Vrain Creek along Colorado Highway 7, the upper Lefthand Canyon dispersed recreation area, and the South St. Vrain and Ceran St. Vrain Trailheads for day use only.

The travel management strategy for the area will be to encourage passenger-car travel on the extensive network of state highways and county roads. Motorized travel on 4WD routes and single-track trails will be featured in the Lefthand OHV Area. Some of the other 4WD routes in the geographic area will be retained. Possible candidates for retention include the Miller Rock road, James Canyon Drive, and the Walker Mountain and Gillespie Gulch challenge routes. Most existing trails will be retained. There may be significant road and trail closures and obliteration to help restore important meadows and wildlife winter range, and to meet the management direction for the Fairview Peak Core Area (see the travel management strategy

table). Most decisions on the specific roads and trails to keep or close will be made during travel management implementation.

Consolidate landownership patterns with emphasis in Intermix Management Areas (MA 7.1). Consider the disposal of isolated tracts of National Forest lands in the Jamestown and Lefthand Canyon areas and acquisition of isolated, undeveloped mineral patents in the Walker Mountain area.

Manage recreational uses and road and trail networks to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management planning. Seek opportunities to improve instream habitat conditions in the South St. Vrain and James Creek watersheds, which were rated Class III (non-functional) in the watershed condition assessment.

*Management Area 1.41 (Fairview Peak Core Area)*

Manage for seasonal recreational use in summer and fall to minimize human-wildlife conflicts during winter and spring.

Minimize recreational impacts on wildlife populations and ecosystems by discouraging additional recreational use.

*Management Area 4.3 (Lefthand OHV Area)*

Pursue the possibility of formally managing the area through a concession permit or some other type of partnership.

Designate an appropriate system of roads and single-track trails to meet management area objectives. This may include relocation of some roads and trails and closure of others to prevent damage to meadows, dry drainages, and riparian areas.

Consider the development of a trailhead with safe parking, area information, and sanitation.

Provide for user safety by considering closure of the area to recreational shooting.

**Standards and Guidelines**

1. (ST) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of lake shores, streambanks, and trails.

**Travel Management Strategy, James Creek Geographic Area**

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.41	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	R	N	N	N	H
	MTR	N	N	N	N	H
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
4.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
4.3	4WD	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	MTR	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
7.1	4WD	R	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N



Figure 2.8

## James Peak Geographic Area

23,300 NFS Acres    803 Non-NFS Acres    24,103 Total Acres

### Management Area Prescription Allocation

3.1 - Special Interest Areas - Emphasizing Use or Interpretation

4.2 - Scenery

8.22 - Ski Based Resorts - Existing and Potential

NFS Acres

23,032

5

262

### Legend

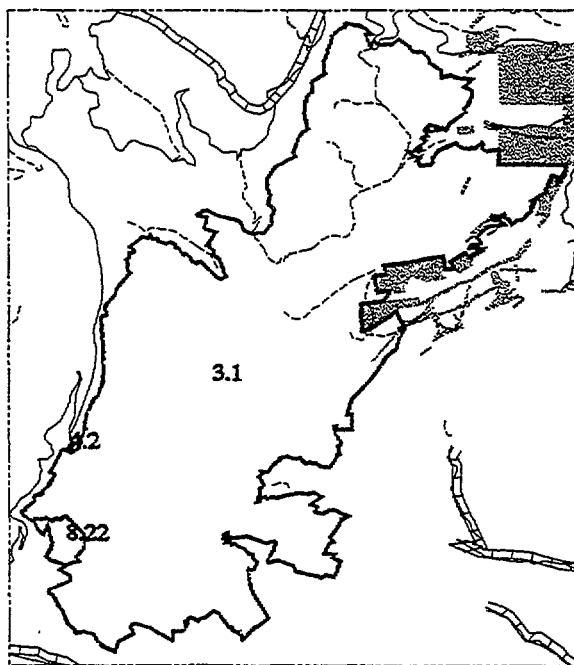
 Not NFS  
Lands

 Roads

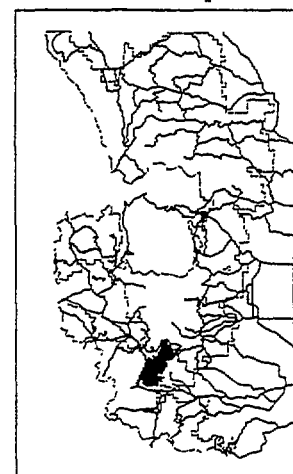
 Trails

 Utility Corridors (0.00 Mi.)

 Electronic  
Sites



### Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000  
0 1  
Miles



## **JAMES PEAK GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

### **Setting**

The area is located between Rollins Pass and Berthoud Pass along the Continental Divide. It contains a mix of upper montane, subalpine and alpine plant communities consisting of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole, limber, and bristlecone pine, aspen, krummholz, meadows, tundra, willow carrs, wet areas, glacial lakes and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 9,200 to 13,391 feet. Mount Eva, Mount Flora, and James and Parry Peaks are the prominent geographic features.

The area currently provides excellent opportunities for semiprimitive and primitive backcountry nonmotorized recreation. Cattle grazing occurs in the vicinity of Mammoth Gulch and on Nebraska Hill which is part of the Mammoth Allotment.

Access into and through the area is provided on a limited trail network that includes the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

### **Goals and Desired Conditions**

Maintain natural conditions while providing opportunities for year-round recreational use.

Maintain or expand mountain grassland and early successional lodgepole pine communities on an opportunity basis. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Allow fire to play as natural a role as possible in the area. This includes using prescribed fire to alter vegetative conditions, particularly in the southern portion of the geographic area where habitat improvement for the resident bighorn sheep herd is an important goal. The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Insects and disease outbreaks are generally allowed to run their course. Rehabilitate disturbed areas where unacceptable resource damage is occurring to restore habitat quantity and quality for native plant and animal species. Timber harvest and road construction are not allowed.

Provide year-round recreational opportunities on a trail system designed for four-season use. Emphasis is on providing opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and crosscountry skiing. Mountain biking is permitted on designated routes. Protect current access on trails in the area by pursuing a right-of-way for the Ute Trail. Retain most of the existing trail system but consider some closures and obliterations. An increase in trail mileage is expected as existing trails are relocated and reconstructed to meet management area objectives and construction of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is completed.

In managing the area for year-round backcountry use, prevent degradation of riparian areas, alpine lakes, and fragile alpine ecosystems by initiating such actions as limiting camping to designated sites in specific areas and prohibiting campfires on an as-needed basis. Current area

of concern where designated campsites may be necessary are Forest, Arapaho, Crater, Clayton, Iceberg, Heart, Rogers Pass, and James Peak lakes. Campfires are of the highest concern in the South Boulder Creek and Mammoth Gulch areas. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management implementation.

Consolidate landownership patterns with priority given to acquiring isolated mineral patents and State Land Board lands.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine the presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback and Colorado River cutthroat trout in the area streams. Manage pure populations of cutthroat trout that may be identified so that habitat and viability are protected and recovery efforts are enhanced.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

1. (GL) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of all lakes shores, streambanks, and trails.
2. (GL) Prohibit recreational livestock within 100 feet of lake shores and streambanks except for watering and through travel.

### **Travel Management Strategy, James Peak Geographic Area**

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/ Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	M	M
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	M	M

